

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled).

29. (New) A composite nanoparticle comprising:

a core comprising an inorganic metal compound and a metal component; and
a coating of an organic substance bonded to said core by physical adsorption.

30. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein said inorganic metal compound is an inorganic compound of a metal comprising at least one of Cu, Ag, Pt, Pd, Ni, Au, Ru, and Rh.

31. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein a content of said metal component is 50% to 99% by weight of a total weight of said composite nanoparticle.

32. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein an average particle diameter of said core is 1 nm to 100 nm.

33. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 32, wherein said average particle diameter of said core is 5 nm to 15 nm.

34. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein said organic substance has a thermal separation initiation temperature of not less than 140°C and less than 190°C.

35. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein said organic substance has a separation energy of not more than 0.3eV per metal atom.

36. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein said inorganic metal compound is silver carbonate and said metal component is metallic silver.

37. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 36, wherein said organic substance is derived from myristyl alcohol.

38. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 37, wherein said core and said coating are formed by heating and holding co-existing silver carbonate and myristyl alcohol such that the following relationship is met, wherein T ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) represents the heating temperature, and t (h) represents the holding time at temperature T , so that said organic substance is bonded to said core without forming an organometallic compound through a reaction between silver and said organic substance:

$$7.85 \leq (T + 273) (20 + \log t) \times 10^{-3} \leq 7.98$$

39. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein said organic substance is derived from myristyl alcohol.

40. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein said inorganic metal compound of said core surrounds said metal component.

41. (New) The composite nanoparticle of claim 29, wherein said inorganic metal compound of said core is dispersed within said metal component.